CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of answering an incoming call at a cordless telephone having a base unit and a plurality of handsets, each of said base unit and plurality of handsets being at a different location, the method comprising the steps of:

answering, by a first ~~party~~ party, the incoming call at one of said base unit and said plurality of handsets;

after the incoming call is answered and while the incoming call is active, initiating an intercom connection, by an intercom initiating party, to alert an intercom receiving party, the intercom connection permitting voice communication between the intercom initiating party and the intercom receiving party;

automatically placing said incoming call in a hold status if either said intercom initiating party or said intercom receiving party is also said first ~~answering~~ party; and

accepting said incoming call, by said intercom receiving party, by terminating the hold status.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

accepting said incoming call, by said answering party, by terminating the hold status.

3-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method of answering an incoming call at a cordless telephone with a base unit and at least a first handset and a second handset, said base unit and said at least first and second handsets being at separate locations, the method comprising the steps of:

a first party answering the incoming call at a first handset of the cordless telephone;

the first party alerting a second party, by initiating an intercom connection between said first handset and said second handset, while the incoming call is automatically placed in a hold status, the intercom connection permitting voice communication between the first party and the second party; and

the second party accepting the incoming call at the handset by terminating the hold status.

6. (Currently Amended) A cordless telephone system comprising:

a base station including first control circuitry for controlling operations at said base station; and

at least two cordless telephone handsets for communicating with said base station, each including second control circuitry for controlling operations at said handset;

said first and second control circuitry operating in response to initiation of an intercom communication at one of said base station and ~~handset~~ handsets to place an active call at at least one of said base station and ~~handset~~ handsets on hold during said intercom communication, the intercom communication permitting voice communication between at least two of said base station and said handsets.

7. (Previously Presented) The system as in claim 6, wherein said first control circuitry causes said active call to be placed on hold when said intercom communication is initiated during said active call and initiates said intercom communication between said base station and said handsets.

8. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 7, wherein said first control circuitry causes said active call to be re-engaged when one of said base station ~~or~~ and said handsets terminates said intercom communications.

9. (Currently Amended) A cordless telephone system comprising:

a base station including first control circuitry for controlling operations at said base station; and

at least a first and second cordless telephone handsets for communicating with said base station including second and third control circuitry for controlling operations at said first and second handsets respectively;

said first, second and third control circuitry operating in response to initiation of an intercom communication at said base station or one of said first and second handsets to place an active call on hold during said intercom communication, the intercom communication permitting voice communication between at least two of said base station and said handsets.

10. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 9, wherein said first control circuitry causes said active call to be placed on hold when said intercom communication is initiated during said active call and initiates said intercom communication between at least two of said base station and said handsets ~~said base station and said at least said first and second handsets~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 10, wherein said first control circuitry causes said active call to be re-engaged when at least one of said base station and ~~or one of~~ said ~~at least a first and second~~ handsets terminates said intercom communication.

12. (Currently Amended) A cordless telephone system comprising:

a base station including first control circuitry for controlling operations at said base station and separate intercom buttons for each of a plurality of cordless telephone ~~handsets~~ handsets, said plurality of cordless telephone handsets comprising at least a first and second cordless telephone handsets for communicating with said base station and including second and third control circuitry for controlling operations at said first and second ~~handsets respectively~~ handsets, respectively, and a separate intercom button for said base station and each other of said handsets;

said first, second, and third control circuitry operating in response to initiation of an intercom communication at one of said base station and said first and second handsets to place an active call on hold during said intercom communication, the intercom communication permitting voice communication between at least two of said base station and said handsets.

13. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 12, wherein said first control circuitry causes said active call to be placed on hold when said intercom communication is initiated during said active call and initiates said intercom communication between at least two of said base station and said handsets ~~said base station and said at least first and second handsets~~.

14. (Previously Presented) The system as in claim 13, wherein said first control circuitry causes said active call to be re-engaged when said base station or one of said at least a first and second handsets terminates said intercom communications.

15-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of initiating an intercom connection comprises activating an intercom initiator.

20. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of alerting further comprises sending an intercom connection request signal.

21. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further comprising terminating said step of initiating by sending an end intercom signal.

22. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 21, wherein said step of sending an end intercom signal further comprises activating an intercom control.

23-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 5, wherein said step of alerting a second party further comprises sending an intercom request signal from said first handset to said second handset.

29. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 5, further comprising terminating said step of initiating an intercom connection between said first handset and said second handset by activating an intercom control on said first handset.

30-43. (Cancelled)

44. (New) A method of communicating between any two devices in a multi-device telephone system, wherein:

the devices comprise a base station and at least two wireless handsets; and

the system is adapted to permit voice communication (i) between any two of the devices and (ii) between any of the devices and an external telephone via a telephone network,

the method comprising:

(a) making a first connection for voice communication between a first device of the system and the external telephone; and

(b) placing the first connection on hold while attempting to make a second connection for voice communication between the first device and a second device of the system.

45. (New) The invention of claim 44, further comprising:

(c) making the second connection.

46. (New) The invention of claim 45, further comprising:

(c) breaking the first and second connections; and

(d) making a third connection between the external telephone and the second device.

47. (New) The invention of claim 45, further comprising:

(c) breaking the second connection; and

(d) taking the first connection off hold.

48. (New) The invention of claim 44, further comprising providing an audible signal to at least one of the devices to indicate that the second connection is made.

49. (New) A multi-device telephone system comprising:

a plurality of devices comprising a base station and at least two wireless handsets; wherein the system is adapted to:

(a) permit voice communication (i) between any two of the devices and (ii) between any of the devices and an external telephone via a telephone network;

(b) make a first connection for voice communication between a first device of the system and the external telephone; and

(c) place the first connection on hold while attempting to make a second connection for voice communication between the first device and a second device of the system.

50. (New) The invention of claim 49, wherein the system is further adapted to:
(d) make the second connection.

51. (New) The invention of claim 50, wherein the system is further adapted to:
(d) break the first and second connections; and
(e) make a third connection between the external telephone and the second device.

52. (New) The invention of claim 50, wherein the system is further adapted to:
(d) break the second connection; and
(e) take the first connection off hold.

53. (New) The invention of claim 49, wherein the system is further adapted to provide an audible signal to at least one of the devices to indicate that the second connection is made.

54. (New) A base station for a multi-device telephone system comprising a plurality of devices comprising the base station and at least two wireless handsets, the base station comprising control circuitry adapted to:
(a) make a first connection for voice communication between a device of the system and an external telephone via a telephone network; and
(b) place the first connection on hold while attempting to make a second connection for voice communication between the device and another device of the system.

55. (New) The invention of claim 54, wherein the control circuitry is further adapted to:
(d) make the second connection.

56. (New) The invention of claim 55, wherein the control circuitry is further adapted to:
(e) break the first and second connections; and
(f) make a third connection between the external telephone and the second device.

57. (New) The invention of claim 55, wherein the control circuitry is further adapted to:
(e) break the second connection; and
(f) take the first connection off hold.

58. (New) The invention of claim 54, wherein the control circuitry is further adapted to provide an audible signal to at least one of the devices indicate that the second connection is attempted or is made.